

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Programme for Kenya

National Liaison Committee Meeting

Minutes of the National Liaison Committee meeting held on 12th June 2007, at the Louis Leakey Hall, National Museums of Kenya.

Present: Helida Oyieke (NMK- *Chairing*), Maurice Wanyiri (KFS), Ken Mwathe (ACC), Solomon Mwangi (CDTF-CEF), Peter Simi (ELCI), Ronald Mulwa (NMK), Enock Kanyanya (Nature Kenya) Leah Mwangi (KENVO), Pyllis Gichuhi (EAWLS), David Kuria (KENVO), Alex Tunoi (KTB), Musa Cheruiyot (WWF), Dr. Caleb Mireri (Kenyatta University), Beatrice Njoroge (WCK), Alex Ngari (NK), Serah Munguti (NK), Jacob Machekele (NK), Fred Munyekenye (IBA Res Fellow), Ireene Madindou (IBA Res Fellow) and Joel Siele (Nature Kenya *Minuting*)

Apologies: Paul Matiku (Nature Kenya), Prof. Laurent Ntahuga (IUCN-EARO), Charles Nyandiga (UNDP), Eric Deche (WCK), Joseph Ruhui (CDTF-CEF), Betty Nzioka (NEMA), Parkinson Ndonye (NEMA), Irene Njumbi (Kesarine Associates), Isabella Mbandi (WCK), Erastus Kanga (KWS), Fleur Ng'weno (Nature Kenya), Tereshia Munya (Min of Lands and Settlement), Benson Murgor (Ministry of Education), Dr Philip Muruthi (AWF), Mr Hadley Becha (EAWLS), Micheal Gachanja (KFWG), Samson Njehia (KFS), Francis Omondi (Ecotourism Kenya)

Abbreviations

NMK – National Museums of Kenya

KFS – Kenya Forest Service

ACC – African Conservation Center

CDTF – Community Development Trust Fund

CEF – Community Environment Facility

ELCI – Environment Liaison Center International

KENVO – Kereita Environmental Volunteers

EAWLS – East African Wildlife Society

KTB – Kenya Tourist Board

WWF – World Wildlife Fund

WCK – Wildlife Clubs of Kenya

NEMA – National Environment Management Authority

IUCN – World Conservation Union

KFWG – Kenya Forest Working Group

IBA – Important Bird Area

BCP – Biodiversity Conservation Programme

NK – Nature Kenya

PFM – Participatory Forest Management

FoKP – Friends of Kinangop Plateau

SSGs – Site Support Groups

CoPs – Conference of the Parties

MEAs – Multilateral Environmental Agreements

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. A round of introductions was done and the apologies noted down. The Chair then call upon the members representing various institutions to give their institutional updates.

Min 57/6/07 Institutional updates

Nature Kenya

Enock Kanyanya reporting

Kanyanya made a power point presentation on the conservation activities that Nature Kenya has so far undertaken in Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The issues that were highlighted were;

- NLC members were reminded that Nature Kenya's conservation action for IBAs is both at national and site level
- 60 IBA sites are categorised into three level for conservation action, 19 sites are classified as critical, 18 sites are classified as urgent and 23 sites are high priority for conservation action
- Nature Kenya work has expanded site action to over 15 sites: Kinangop; Kereita; Mt Kenya; Kakamega; South Nandi; North Nandi; Dakacha Woodland; Arabuko-Sokoke Forest; Sabaki River Mouth; Cherengani; Dunga; Bisia; Machakos; Mumoni Hills potential IBA; Kusa and Koguta; Mukurweini among others.
- Basic monitoring is being carried out in all 60 IBAs where in collaboration with KFS, KWS, NEMA, NMK researchers, Site Support Groups (SSGs) & Volunteers participates in collecting data
- Detailed monitoring is being carried out at 7 IBAs, up from the previous 5 sites
- 160 sites were identified in the Eastern Arc & Coastal Forests Hotspot for monitoring. This is a cross border project between Kenya and Tanzania
- From the monitoring data collected 2 IBA Status & Trends reports have been produced, 2004 & 2005 and 1st draft of 2006/07 is ready for comments. Analysis shows that the status of IBAs remained the same, pressure/threats had reduced by 2005. This may be due to increased in interventions in 2005.
- Nature Kenya carried out Biodiversity and socio-economic surveys in Mumoni & Nuu Hills potential IBAs sites

- Increased grass recovery in the nature reserves purchased by NK in collaboration with FoKP at Kinangop grassland plateau has resulted in increased number of grassland birds. 8 resident pairs of Sharpe's Longclaw have been recorded in the reserves, up from none at the beginning.
- More than 400 government officers trained biodiversity & habitat monitoring.
- NK has supported alternative income generating activities for local communities to reduce pressure on natural resources. Some of these income generating activities are bee keeping, woolspinning, mushroom farming, butterfly farming, aloe vera farming, tree seedlings production, ecotourism etc.
- Environmental education programme is now well established in 6 sites i.e. Kinangop, Kakamega, Kikuyu, Lake Victoria, Arabuko Sokoke and Mt. Kenya. Two hundred and fifty five pupils' and sixteen teachers have visited the Kereita and Kinangop Resource Centres between January and March 2007. Kakamega is receiving some 2000 children every month; more visits by the schools are expected to increase as the 3 eco-resource centers become well known.
- NLC members were informed that local communities in Kilifi are enjoying clean water after 11 km piped water was completed.
- Nature Kenya in collaboration with SSGs have increased awareness on environmental issues through involving local communities on celebration of international events such as World Migratory Bird Day, World Environment Day, Clean-up day
- NK developing partnership with media such as KBC TV, Capital FM, Radio Waumini, West FM, KTN, Nation TV among others, some project activities at the sites has been covered by these media e.g. Arabuko-Sokoke
- SSGs & NK continue to attend and participate in District Environment Committees for Nandi, Nyeri, Kiambu and Nyandarua.
- NK invited to join Kenya Vision 2030 National Committee

African Conservation Center (ACC)

Ken Mwathe reported that;

- ACC has been working with the Maasai community since 2004 to manage their land for pastoralism and the wildlife
- The main challenge is pressure for land sub-division that may consequentially affect biodiversity
- 15 group ranches in south rift, area of Namanga have come together to market their products to tourists that connect to Southern Tourism Circuit
- There are two IBAs in this area where ACC operates - South Nguruman and Lake Natron
- Shompole & Olkiramatian communities have set a side 20,000 hectares of their land for conservation

National Museums of Kenya (NMK)

Ronald Mulwa reported that

- 5 departments from NMK carried out a biodiversity assessment in the dryland hilltops of Kitui and Mwingi districts which are not IBAs. 5 bird species that qualifies an area to be an IBA were identified. Department of Ornithology is consulting with BirdLife International on possibility of designating this area as an IBA.
- NMK continues to receive monitoring data from the IBAs for storing and analysing. The status report 2006/07 is being compiled

Kereita Environmental Volunteers (KENVO)

Leah Mwangi reported

- KENVO has created awareness in all 7 blocks that form Kikuyu Escarpment that is from Kieni to Thogoto
- On the other site of Rift Valley, Narok District where Kikuyu Escarpment extends to, KENVO has built the capacity of the local communities in this area to take up the conservation initiatives.
- Group is also promoting farm forestry, where farmers have raised over 100 000 tree seedlings to plant on their farms for fuelwood and income generation. The target is to plant 500,000 tree seedlings with the communities
- KENVO distributed 150 beehives to farmers in Kikuyu Escarpment. These hives were bought through Community Development Trust Fund-Biodiversity Conservation Programme (CDTF-BCP) project that was closed 2005.
- KENVO reached wide community through national and international events that they always organised. KENVO marked the World Environment Day 07 with over 1500 people joining them in celebration, some of the activities to commemorate the day were marathon (for primary, secondary and adult categories), beauty contest for Mr & Miss Environment, art competition, traditional dances presenting environmental songs among other activities.
- The group is working with Eco-agriculture Partners to engage farmers in agricultural activities that promote biodiversity conservation
- KENVO is engaged in empowering the youth groups to participate in conservation activities

- KENVO is running their affairs with minimal support from Nature Kenya.

Community Development Trust Fund-Community Environment Facility (CDTF-BCP) Solomon Mwangi reported

- After the close of the Biodiversity Conservation Programme (BCP), the European Union came up with another programme to support the local communities. The new programme is Community Environment Facility (CEF), and supports environmental activities that lead to poverty reduction.
- CEF has so far supported 9 projects in different part of the country in Cherangani Hills, Mwea, Kirinyaga, Aberdare region, Eastern Mau Forest, Dondori Forest, Bahati Forest, Eburu Forest and Molo river basin. These sites are water catchments to the main lakes and rivers in the country such as River Nzoia that flows to L.Victoria, L.Nakuru and River Tana among others. Most of the project sites are also IBAs.
- The other sites which are to be considered for support are South and North Nandi Forest, Banguret river in Mt.Kenya, Taveta where we have Lake Jipe & Kitobo Forest, Laikipia, Kimana, Malewa and Mbololo
- CEF were negotiating for more resources with Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

Reaction from the members

- One member wanted to know why Ole Kesarian was not a focus area by the CDTF-CEF project
- Reacting to this Mr. Mwangi said CEF had limited funding that could not be enough to support all the projects

Min 58/6/07 Development issues affecting key sites

1. Lake Natron reported by Ken Mwathe;

Mwathe gave a brief of where L Natron is situated; he said Lake Natron is a pristine soda lake in the Great Rift Valley in northern Tanzania, on the border with Kenya. Lake Natron Basin is a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, an Important Bird Area, and the world's most significant breeding site for the near-threatened Lesser Flamingo. During the past 45 years, Lake Natron has been the only successful breeding site for the East African population of the Lesser Flamingo, accounting for 75% of the global population.

The lake receives water from rainfall on the pan and in the catchment which reaches the lake via the rivers Ewaso Ngiro and Peninj, and from springs.

The threats that the lake is now facing is that Tata Chemicals Ltd, which also owns majority shares in Magadi Soda Company, has submitted to the Government of Tanzania plans to construct a processing plant capable of producing 500,000 metric tonnes of soda ash annually. The plant will have associated infrastructure, including a new access road, power plant, railroad, pipeline to carry soda slurry across the lake, and living accommodations for an estimated 1,225 construction workers and 152 permanent staff and their families. In addition, the plant will require 11.5 megawatts of power, 106,000 litres of fresh water per hour and will release 10m³ of sewerage water per hour.

Norken Ltd was contracted to carry out a scoping exercise but the results have not been made public. Owing to these threats environmental bodies in Kenya drawn from both government departments and NGOs came together to form a taskforce that will put up the facts about L. Natron. The information put up by taskforce will be used to oppose the proposed project. So far the taskforce had met twice to deliberate on the latest development; this taskforce is being spearheaded by African Conservation Centre (ACC).

The EIA report that was prepared by the consultant in Tanzania was being finalised and therefore the workshop was being planned for the consultant to present their report to the government of Tanzania investor, it is from this workshop whether the project can be approved or not depending on whether there are those who against project with evidence why the project should not take place.

Mwathe said since we are realising there are a lots of negative impacts that project would cause if it is allowed to take place and therefore it is good if we have representatives from the taskforce attending the workshop with the information they have gathered in collaboration with other environmental bodies in Tanzania those who are opposing the project. The big challenge is where to get funds to sponsor those who will be attending the workshop.

Ken informed the members that ACC who is the convener of the taskforce had written letters to various head of organisations both government and NGOs and even international agencies to solicit for support both financially and advocacy. Already the letters had been written to KWS, NMK, NEMA, EAWLS and Nature Kenya. KWS will write letters to Ramsar Convention headquarters and their colleagues in Tanzania

He further reported that at first getting Tanzania on board was a bit difficult but contacts have been made with some organisations.

Article on L. Natron was being worked on to be put in the East African Standard and the Daily Nation. Also contact had been made with Africa Birds and Birding Magazine to post an article in their magazine. There was an appeal to the environmental community to support the cost of putting the articles in newspapers.

Comments/reactions

- The article for the East African Standard should come from regional point of view and not just Kenyans.
- They should be intensive lobbying of the two governments
- Other organisations such as Environment Liaison Center International (ELCI) can be used as an entry point to reach at a wider network of conservation organisations. ELCI has 800 conservation members in East Africa.
- There are lessons to be borrowed from the Mabira Forest case in Uganda. This can be done by liaising with Ugandan environmental activists for advice
- Members also said we can draw lessons from the Ewaso Ngiro proposed project that was thrown out
- There is need to lobby the Ramsar office both regional & international
- There may be need to solicit for signatures against the proposed project
- Use the BirdLife secretariat to push for Tanzanian BirdLife partner WCST to be more proactive
- There is need for the taskforce to consider an alternative line of action in the event that the Tanzanian government gives the go ahead to implement the project despite objections from the environmental bodies.
- The big worry was that finances to carry out campaigns might be a drawback

2. Kereita Environmental Volunteers (KENVO)

Report by D.Kuria

- Kereita forest is again earmarked for another gas mining project by Tile and Carpet Center
- This forest is part of Kikuyu Escarpment IBA that hosts the globally threatened Abbot's Starling. It is an area that is picking up on ecotourism and the proposed gas mining project may affect the ecology of this area.
- It also feared that resultant Carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere may increase hence increasing global warming
- The consultant that was supposed to carry out an EIA just gave out a questionnaire to KENVO to fill and the group came out strongly opposing the project
- From experience, benefits being accrued by mining companies do not trickle down to communities where they operate.
- KENVO wrote to various organisations including government departments to get their position on the proposed project. KWS, Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG) and Nature Kenya has responded. All are against the proposed project. KFS is yet to respond.

Comments from the members

- It was not clear whether an EIA on the project was carried out as per NEMA regulations
- KENVO was advised to check the EIA register of recent projects at the NEMA headquarters or at the relevant district NEMA office to ascertain whether an EIA was indeed undertaken.
- The commissioner of mines wrote to KFS requesting them to grant permission to mine gas in the forest and KFS did not object the proposal so long as EIA has been undertaken first.

Min 59/6/07 Institutional collaboration and data sharing

Report by Kanyanya

- A new global basic monitoring form that was improved from the currently used form has been produced.
- Comments on new form were sought from NLC members.
- There exists a lot of information within NK and NMK that can be shared to the rest of the world; e.g. IBA Status and Trends reports, the eastern arc and coastal forests database and the research work carried out by NMK. All this exists as paper databases.
- There is need to strengthen institutional collaboration and data sharing.

Reaction from the members

- The IBA monitoring form should be user friendly to local communities
- The form contains a lot of information that may scare respondents
- It was suggested that we have two separate forms: one for local communities and the other to be filled by scientists. This suggestion was rejected because it is not possible to have two separate sets of data for analysis, from the same IBA
- To reduce the number of pages, logos to be put on the front page alone
- There is need for more training on the new form especially for the local community groups. Various collaborating institutions were requested to assist by training their field staff on how to fill the new form.

- It was also suggested that NK and other collaborating institutions to get at least one reliable/committed person in each IBA site that will be filling the form & submitting to NK for analysis. Forms filled by other people from the same IBA will strengthen the information submitted by that one reliable person.
- It was agreed that NLC institutions would go through the form and submit feedback to NK by the end of June 2007 for final compilation of the form.

Web-enabled World Bird Database (WeeBDB)

Report by Fred Barasa

Barasa who is in-charge of WeeBDB explained to the NLC members on how this works. He said this is easily accessible through internet unlike the previous World Bird Database, which was only accessible at the department of ornithology.

He showed the members on the slide (**refer to annex 1**) using Arabuko-sokoke forest site as an example on how the data is fed into the web. He requested members to avail to him any information on the IBAs that can be useful in updating the website.

Comments from the members

- ELCI have been able to strengthen the links and sharing of information with other organisations through the web, other NLC members' institutions are welcome to join the network.

Min 60/6/07 Domestication and implementation of Conservation Conventions and Agreements

Presentation by Serah

- Serah from NK run through power point slides (**refer annex 2**) as she highlighted the conventions which Kenya is party to.
- Points that came up for discussion include:
 - How well is the implementation and reporting of treaties coordinated in Kenya?
 - What is the role of NLC as far as conventions are concerned
 - Are all the views of relevant stakeholders incorporated in reports to CoPs, CBDs etc.
- She presented to the members the keystone areas that NLC members need to have extra commitment on, if there was to be any success in this area:
 - Tracking implementation and status
 - Institutional cooperation
 - Research, training and information dissemination/sharing
 - Country preparation for CoPs

Comments from the members

- There was a concern that there has often been inadequate country representation at various CoPs. Delegates are often not involved in preparation of country papers or the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
- The views of Civil societies have not come out strongly at conventions
- NLC needs to come together and provide input to country reporting as one body rather than an individual institutions
- It was noted that currently, NEMA is the focal implementing agency of most MEAs
- It was suggested that other lead agencies could spearhead the implementation of some of the MEAs
- NLC can get information from different institutions that can be consolidated together for reporting to CBD
- There is need for a coordinated system of collecting and collating information for country reporting at CoPs
- A taskforce was formed to come up with a strategy on better coordination, implementation, tracking status and country reporting for MEAs.

The proposed members of the taskforce were;

1. Peter Simi of ELCI
2. Maurice Wanyiri – KFS
3. Ronald Mulwa – NMK
4. NEMA to be contacted
5. Enock Kanyanya – Nature Kenya
6. David Kuria to represent community groups
7. Serah Munguti – Nature Kenya

Nature Kenya will call taskforce members to a meeting on the way forward and report to the the NLC meeting

Min 61/6/07 Recommendations contained in the 2005 IBA Status and trends report

The recommendations that were highlighted in the 2005 IBA status and trends report were to be actioned by KFS, KWS and NEMA. Only KFS was represented in the meeting and gave the following comments:

- On capacity building:- 200 forest guards were trained on IBA monitoring during their in service at Kenya Forestry Training College at Londiani. The same training was offered to more than 100 regular students at the same college at different dates.
- More than 60 District Forest Officers (DFOs) has been trained as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) and on how to fill basic monitoring & METT forms
- Other recommendations are being implemented

Min 62/6/07 Any Other Business (AOB)

- NLC were informed that NK and NMK presented papers during the PFM conference, one of presentation was on 'Birds and Environmental Health'

Date of next meeting

Next meeting was scheduled for **9th August 2007**

There being no other business, the meeting drew to a close at 1:45 p.m.

World Bird Database (WBDB)

What is WBDB?

- ✓ Tool used by BirdLife International & partners to manage, analyse & report data on species & sites for conservation purposes.
- ✓ A channel enabling data to flow between people who collect the data, those who collate & verify it & those who analyse data into information & targets to influence policy & decision making

<https://www.globalconservation.info>

<https://www.globalconservation.info/wbdb/login.php>

- ✓ Online system designed for collection, management & reporting site & species data by the BirdLife partnership.
- ✓ Has support for multiple languages, other taxa and sites like – KBA and AZE
- ✓ Forms the basis of publications such as the *Threatened birds of the world*.
- ✓ It contains additional information that is not to be published due to space constraints (e.g. spp at sites, Unique id of the spp).

For species

- ✓ Characteristics
- ✓ Range
- ✓ Population numbers
- ✓ habitat use (importance and seasonal use)
- ✓ Threats (timing, scope, severity and impact)
- ✓ Targets for future action
- ✓ Action
- ✓ Summary text
- ✓ Red List

For IBA sites

- ✓ Details – name, co-ordinates, IBA status etc
- ✓ Habitats – Forests, wetlands, woodlands etc.
- ✓ Land use - % cover for tourism, nature conservation, forestry etc
- ✓ Threats – deforestation, logging, overgrazing etc
- ✓ IBA criteria
- ✓ Relationship to protected areas
- ✓ Text accounts across a number of themes.

Details screen

https://www.globalconservation.info/wbdb/sit_attributes.php - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address https://www.globalconservation.info/wbdb/sit_attributes.php

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

Home | Species | Sites | Sea/Landscapes | Supporting data | Reports | Administration | Logout

Site profile

- Details
- Habitat
- Landuse and Ownership
- Protected areas
- Text account
- Threats (archive)
- Biomes and EBAs
- CI Regions
- Contacts
- References
- Species at site
- Action
- Monitoring

Site profile > Details

Arabuko-Sokoke forest

National site name	Arabuko-Sokoke forest		
International site name	Arabuko-Sokoke forest		
IBA status	confirmed	KBA Status	- AZE status -
Final code	KE007	National code	Temporary code
Country	Kenya		
Subnational region(s)	Coast Province		
Central coordinates	3° 20.00 South 39° 55.00 East	Show location in Google Maps	
Area (ha)	41600	Area accuracy	-
Altitude minimum (m)	0	Altitude maximum (m)	210
Management plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agreed boundary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digitised boundary?
Notes			

IBA monitoring

Home | Species | Sites | Supporting data | Reports | Logout

Monitoring > IBA monitoring

Lake Naivasha

Year of assessment	Threat status score (pressure)	Condition status score (state)	Action status score (response)
2006	not assessed	not assessed	not assessed

Was whole of IBA covered?		State assessed by	unset
Accuracy of information	-	Favourable conservation status?	
Assessment complete?		Completed by	Evans, Mike

Threats to the IBA (pressure)

Threat level 1	Threat level 2	Timing	Scope	Severity	Result
General comments on threats (pressure) to the site					

Condition of habitat (state)

Habitat	Habitat detail	Optimum area (ha)	Actual area (ha)	% remaining	Habitat quality	Result
Condition of bird populations (state)						
Scientific name	Common name	Optimum population	Actual population	Units	% remaining	Result
Additional information						
General comments on the site's condition (state)						
Conservation actions taken at IBA (response)						
Conservation designation	Management planning	Conservation action	Result			
			not assessed			
General comments on action (response) at the site						

Key benefits

- ✓ Manage & validate a large volume of information on globally threatened species and IBAs.
- ✓ Analyse trends in data & monitor changes.
- ✓ Determine conservation status of species.
- ✓ Produce focused, targeted reports for specific purposes
- ✓ Improve the sharing of information between partners.
- ✓ Improve electronic links to non-BirdLife data and information, such as socio-economic and non-bird data, for use in analyses.
- ✓ Link to GIS for presentation and analysis.
- ✓ Deliver information over the internet.

Treaties and Conventions

Implementation and Coordination in Kenya

Introduction

- Kenya has ratified and is a signatory to a number of biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's)
- As a signatory Kenya is expected to:
 - Domesticating provisions of the conventions/agreements and protocols into national policies and legislation
 - Seek to enhance effective implementation of MEAs provisions and guidelines
 - Cooperate with other parties and secretariats of respective MEAs

Convention on Biological Diversity

- Signed in 1992 at Rio and aims at achieving three goals: conserving biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.
- National focal point - NEMA

Key articles

- Identification and Monitoring
- Research and Training
- Technical and Scientific Cooperation
- Promote cooperation for the development and use of technologies – training of personnel, exchange of experts, joint research programmes and ventures – relevant to the objectives of the convention

Other Treaties

- Convention On Migratory Species (CMS) – KWS
 - African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement
- The Ramsar Convention – KWS
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) - KWS
- Biodiversity aspects of United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC)
- Biodiversity aspects of United Nations Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD)
-

Implementation and Coordination

- How has Kenya fared in the implementation of MEAs?
 - Brief experience sharing – NEMA, KWS
- What is the role of the NLC in terms of:
 - Tracking implementation and status
 - Institutional cooperation
 - Research, training and information dissemination/sharing
 - Country preparation for CoPs